



THE JEWISH DAILY

FORWARD

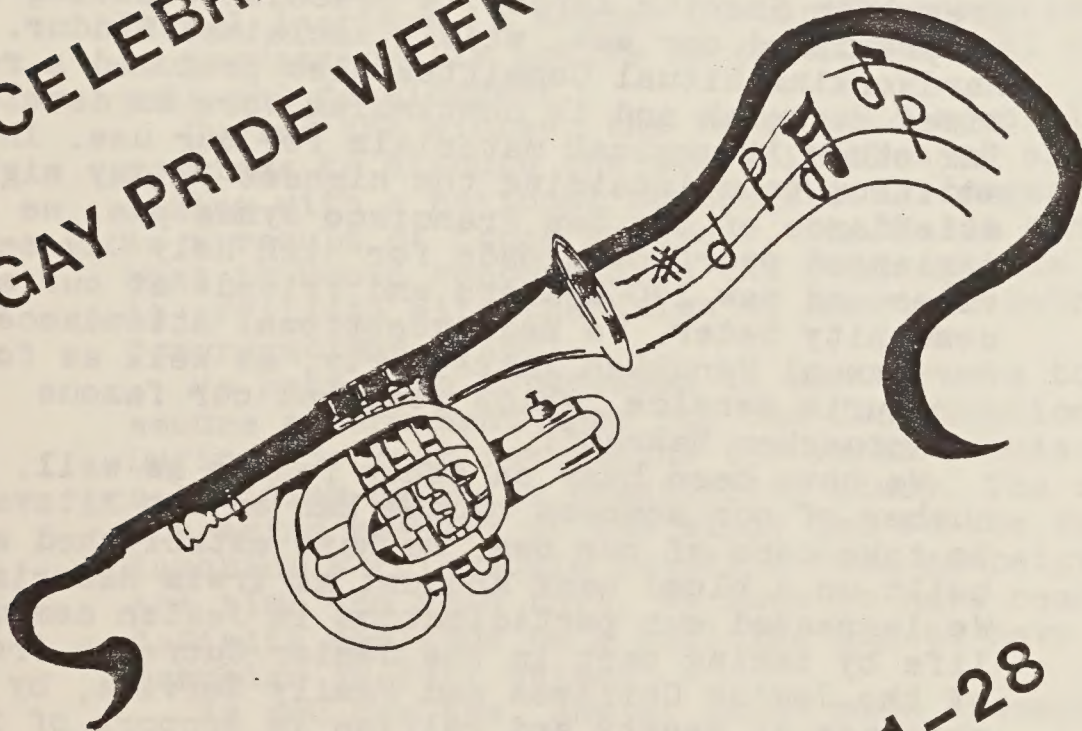
JUNE 1981

שער זהב

IYAR/SIVAN 5741

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

**CELEBRATE
GAY PRIDE WEEK !!!!!**



JUNE 21-28

P.O. BOX 5640 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94101

(415) 621-2871

Blue ink on white

Co-Leader Connection

It's hard to believe this will be the last time I'll be writing as co-leader (great collective sigh of relief!). How can a year go by so fast? Looking over the events and accomplishments of Sha'ar Zahav during 1980-81, I am amazed at the progress we made. We can all be tremendously proud of our congregation.

We kicked off 1980-81 as the hosts of the terrifically successful Fifth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews. At Shabbat evening services during the conference (held at Congregation Sherith Israel, a precedent setting first) we premiered our new, widely acclaimed Siddur. Our hardworking Ritual Committee also produced a revised Haggadah and is continuing work on developing other liturgical materials for our use. In addition to maintaining the highest Friday night attendance of any San Francisco synagogue, we experienced overflow crowds for High Holy Day services and saw 140 members and friends at our annual community Seder. We had exceptional attendance at our annual Hanukkah latke party, as well as for our Purim service, which featured our famous Hamantaschen Bake-Off.

We have been busy on other fronts as well. A number of our members became Bar or Bat Mitzvah. To take care of our own, we have established and built up a blood bank account at Irwin Memorial. We increased our participation in Jewish community life by taking part in the Senior Outreach Program of the Jewish Children and Family Service, by our presence at events and rallies in support of Soviet Jewry, and by volunteering to serve in the Jewish Welfare Federation's annual telethon.

Within the Congregation, we can be proud of the growth in our membership (although we still need more of you to join!) and in particular to the growth in the number of women who actively participate. The resurgence in women's participation is highlighted by the fact that three out of four of our current officers are women! We continue encouraging women to become actively involved in Sha'ar Zahav.

In April we made significant revisions to our by-laws and instituted a new leadership structure which should greatly improve our day-to-day operation. We conducted a thorough personnel evaluation of our rabbi, and resolved to make major changes in the future evaluation process to improve its effectiveness. We also negotiated a new, two-year full time contract with the rabbi, with the goal of increasing his salary to a fully competitive level during the second year of his contract.

To improve the internal functioning of the Va'ad, Va'ad members participated over the last several months in a process study facilitated by Isabel Auerbach, a member of our Congregation who is professionally active in organizational analysis and development.

During the winter, the Va'ad held special meetings to discuss the possibilities of affiliating with a national congregational organization. As a result of those sessions, the Va'ad concluded that it would recommend to the Congregation that it affiliate with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC).

We have also progressed in our efforts to secure a permanent home for the Congregation. During the last few months the Va'ad commissioned a building campaign feasibility study. The encouraging results of the study led to the Va'ad launching a full-scale building fund campaign. By the time you read this, we hope to have reached a definite decision on a building and to have the campaign in full swing!

As you can see, Sha'ar Zahav made tremendous progress this past year. To all of our members who worked so hard to make it happen, THANK YOU! It truly has been a privilege to serve you as co-leader, and I am grateful for all your support, understanding and cooperation. I encourage you all to continue your work during the coming year, to build on our amazing achievements of 1980-81.

L'hitraot,

Rob Montague

From Bryan

Where does time go? To me it now seems only a month ago when Laurie Radovsky, one of our Co-Leaders was asking me if I would consider taking the Chair of the Newsletter Committee and edit the Jewish Gaily Forward. In real life that conversation took place a year ago.

Such a year!

For me this past year of serving you has been filled with enormous personal growth and movement in my life. I'm even celebrating my one year anniversary with my lover Don this month!

I am very pleased with the progress the Forward has made. We upgraded the format of the newsletter to offer a cleaner appearance. It was necessary to set guidelines for editorial content. The Forward moved from basically just covering synagogue news and events to reporting and commentary on what is occurring in the wider gay/lesbian and Jewish communities. Our journal reaches out to readers in England, Canada, Mexico, France, Israel, Australia, and other nations, and across the United States.

Most importantly it is the respect of the Forward as a journal with integrity that satisfies me most. We are a synagogue with purpose and integrity and this newsletter conveys that to the world.

So many people have contributed to making the Forward a vital voice that to list each one individually would fill this issue. To all of you my thanks, gratitude, and appreciation.

I extend my complete support to our new Editor and Chair of the Newsletter Committee, Cathy Nelson. Her artistic, layout, and editorial ability is superb, and it is a true joy working with her. The energy and talent Cathy brought with her from Chicago's Congregation Or Chadash is a wonderful asset for us.

Finally, I am not going to crawl under a rock! I intend to stay just as active in the ongoing life of our synagogue. Participation and sharing is what gives definition to my life. Sha'ar Zahav gives me the space to make a difference in the world.

I Love You,
Bryan Taylor,
Editor

From Where I Stand

Allen Bennett, Rabbi

We are fast approaching the next in our annual cycle of Jewish holidays, Shavuot, the time of the giving of the Torah. We commemorate at this season, fifty days after Passover, God's gift of Torah to us at Mount Sinai.

We should remember that then, as now, the giving of Torah was not a one-sided event. In effect God offered the Torah to us; we had the chance to decide not to accept it. But we, the Hebrews, made a group decision, not only to accept the Law, but to live by for the rest of time. One might ask if those at Sinai had the right to make that decision for us, but that would be begging the question. The fact is that they did it, and our heritage ever since Sinai has been one of determining how best to live by the Law we accepted.

For many at Sha'ar Zahav, this religious observance can take on a special, extra meaning. In the case of other, mainstream congregations, belonging to the synagogue or temple is often an obligation, done for the sake of the children, and often not viewed as a mitzvah. But for many in our congregation, belonging to Sha'ar Zahav is not only not an obligation; it is rewarding in its own right, not to mention exciting and fulfilling. Most of our members find themselves choosing to return to Judaism after an absence of many years. It's not necessarily that they were practicing other religions, although some have done that as well, when they felt rejected by their own faith. More often they simply stayed away from religious involvement or identification completely, feeling left out, unwanted. They believed that there was no place for them in Judaism, and Judaism did nothing to alter their view. At least not until recently, when synagogues and secular Jewish gay and lesbian groups have come into existence.

The result is that large numbers of vital, vibrant, Judaism-starved Jews are returning to Judaism, accepting the challenge of being Jewish, and, in many cases, the extra challenge of meshing that Judaism with their personal lifestyle. And they are finding a richness and a beauty they simply couldn't imagine.

Putting this into the context of our forthcoming holiday, we find two points of emphasis worth remembering: first, as a harvest holiday, we are reminded that this was the time when bread made from newly harvested grain was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem in thanks for the harvest. In a certain sense, by our return to synagogue, we are once again beginning to harvest what was planted for us thousands of years ago by our ancestors. We are rediscovering a religious system which does not automatically deprive us of our religious rights, simply because the professional practitioners of our faith historically disapproved of us. And second, and equally important by our return to the synagogue, and with it our active return to Judaism, we are finding ourselves in the perfect position to learn again what it means to accept "the yoke of Torah" and to accept the system of living which have made Judaism the living and adaptable element of civilization which it has been throughout the millenia.

May your harvest be rich, and may your life in our midst be as rewarding as the love and devotion of Ruth (of the Biblical book of the same name) for her mother-in-law Naomi.

Allen

Our Yom ha-Shoa Service

On May 1, we held our first full Yom ha-Shoa Service in conjunction with Shabbat. It was a very moving experience for all of us.

Particularly relevant was the remembrance of not only our Jewish victims of the Holocaust, but our gay sisters and brothers as well.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav can feel very pleased and complete because we honored the six million Jews who died in Hitler's flames and the hundreds of thousands of homosexual men and women who suffered the same agony.

We wish to commend Rabbi Bennett and those who participated in our Yom ha-Shoa service for the dignity which this day deserves. We also thank Rhonda Abrams of the Anti-Defamation League for her superb sermon relating to anti-Semitism today and the meaning of Yom ha-Shoa.

**6th International Conference --
Alive and Well in Philly!**

Make your plans now to attend the Sixth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, July 2-5, at the Holiday Inn at Independence Mall, Philadelphia.

Congregation Beth Ahavah is hosting the conference this year, and their enthusiasm and encouragement is coming through loud and clear!

Exciting workshops and seminars have been planned to incorporate religious, social, and personal issues. Fun events such as a July 4th river cruise and fireworks, walking tours of Philadelphia and much more are scheduled.

If you would like to receive more Conference information, please write: Sixth International Conference, P.O. Box 7566, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Here's more good news!

Sha'ar Zahav has reserved a block of seats on a World Airways flight to Newark. Seats are still available! But make your reservations NOW!! We have also arranged for a bus to take conferees into Philadelphia and back to Newark Airport for the return flight.

The flight schedule is as follows:

<u>DEPART</u>	<u>ARRIVE</u>
8:20 A.M. Wed. 7/1-Oakland	Newark 4:20 P.M.
8:35 P.M. Sun. 7/5-Newark	Oakland 12:30 A.M.

You can adjust this itinerary to your own needs if you wish to stay longer on the East Coast.

This is by far the most economical way to travel to the Conference. The roundtrip airfare is \$312. The cost of the bus trip will depend on the number of occupants.

Contact Lauren Meshel at The Travel People, 421-2930 to make your reservations. Please tell her you are with Sha'ar Zahav, and wish to go to the Conference. She will handle everything for you.

DON'T DELAY!! DO IT TODAY!!

With Love and Affection

The Personnel Evaluation Committee would like to express its appreciation to those of you who participated in the recent evaluation of the rabbi. Sixty per cent of the congregation returned their questionnaires and it was obvious from the content of the evaluations that people had put considerable thought and energy into them. Thank you for your effort and assistance in our difficult task.

To all of you who sent your praise, encouragement, and thoughts from afar, we are very grateful. At times, we really need them.

To those of you with legible handwriting, we send an additional bouquet.

A special thanks to George for all the times he cooked for us, feed us, and cleaned up after us.

And to Rabbi Allen Bennett for his patience and confidence in us, we promise never to put any of us through this again.



B'Shalom,

The Committee:
Scott, Nancy, Linda,
Tom, and Ron

Dear Scott, Nancy, Tom, and Ron,

Thank you - publicly - for all your hard work and cooperation on the committee. I don't think I've ever enjoyed working with a committee as much as I've enjoyed working with you. Despite the gruelling hours, incredible pressure, and difficult task (we want to keep everyone impressed), I really looked forward to all the hours we spent together. I'm glad you've become part of my family.

Love,

Linda

Family Seders a Success

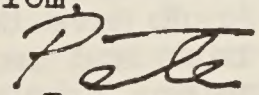
Sha'ar Zahav's first attempt at organizing small Family Seders in members' homes was a success and the seders were enjoyed by their participants.

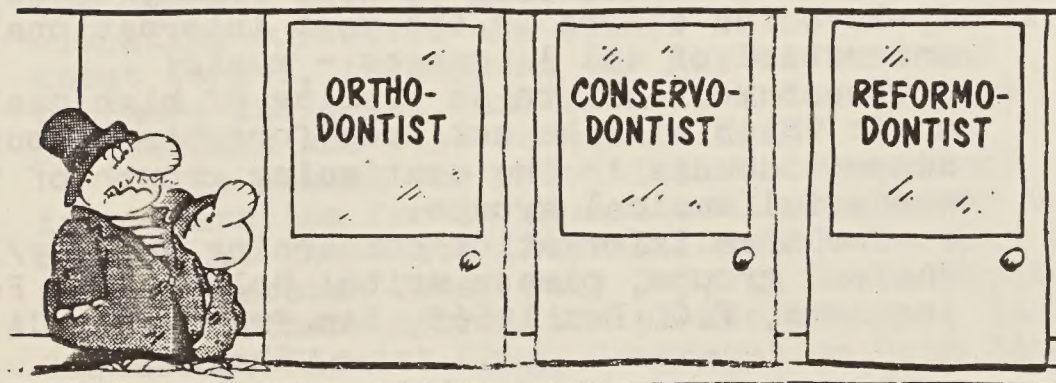
Five Family Seders were organized, which were attended by a total of about 20 members and friends of the congregation. These seders generally were brief, informal services based upon the Pesach tradition, according to the wishes of those attending.

I feel that the Family Seders were important to those who wanted to attend an intimate family type seder, and do not have relatives in this area. However, we do have our extended family, Sha'ar Zahav. It is my hope that this event will become an annual tradition at our synagogue, and that its participation will expenad over the years. I also hope that next year, participants will appreciate that the organization of the seder groups involves a lot of coordination. Last minute responses did make the coordinator's life somewhat hectic.

I would like to extend my thanks, on behalf of the congregation, to all those who offered their homes for the Family Seders and to all the participants who helped make this event a true success.

Shalom,


Pete Tannen



Gay Pride Week: June 21-28

CELEBRATE ALL MONTH LONG WITH GAY MUSIC!!!!!!

San Francisco is a city which is known for both it's liberal attitudes and cultural diversity. Within the gay community we are fortunate to have our share of gay-oriented, feminist, and non-sexist music, plus unlimited talent.

Various musical groups are flourishing in the Bay Area such as gay men's choruses, lesbian choruses, gay bands, and orchestras. This is only the beginning. Gay/lesbian groups are starting to "come out" all over the country, and in grand style. Not only are the styles of music varied, but you notice the high quality of instrumentation and voices that are presented.

June is loaded with wonderful musical events. Along with their scheduled concerts in the Bay Area, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will begin a two week national tour. This is the first time a gay group has faced the challenge of a national tour.

In celebration of Gay Pride Week, June 21-28, Golden Gate Performing Arts will be producing a number of concerts including the Third Gay Musical Celebration at Davies Hall.

I have been singing in the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Chorus for over a year. I know how the support of the community makes for the group's success.

I feel fortunate to be able freely to express my love for others in the most internationally understood of all languages - music!

Treat yourself to an evening of high quality music which will be not soon forgotten. Your support counts in the continuing growth of these wonderful musical groups.

For more information concerning the gay/lesbian musical groups, please write: Golden Gate Performing Arts, P.O. Box 14665, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Shalom,

Cary
Cary Kandel

Schedule of Concerts

- June 4 FINAL SAN FRANCISCO APPEARANCE
BEFORE NATIONAL TOUR!
San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
Warfield Theatre 8:00 P.M.
- June 11 AN EVENING OF BACH
Lambda Pro Musica
Herbst Theatre 8:00 P.M.
- June 25
June 27 FLIGHT OF FANCY
San Francisco Gay Freedom Day
Marching Band
Norse Auditorium 8:00 P.M.
- June 26 A GAY MUSICAL CELEBRATION
San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus,
San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Men's
Community Chorus
Davies Symphony Hall 8:00 P.M.
- June 28 SAN FRANCISCO GAY FREEDOM DAY PARADE!!

Zionist Chug

The Zionist Union of Gay Jews (ZUG - an anacronym pronounced like the Yiddish word "speak out") is initiating the formation of chapters nationwide. The aims of the organization are to form an international network of gay men and lesbians concerned about Israel, to counteract the current wave of anti-Israel propaganda by educating ourselves and others as to the facts about Israel, to support our gay sisters and brothers in Israel, and to help and encourage homosexuals who wish to make Aliyah.

ZUG is asking for your ideas and questions in preparation for an educational program to be offered at the Sixth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, July 2-5, in Philadelphia.

For further information please contact, Yaakov Gladstone, Zionist Chug, Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, P.O.Box 1270, New York, N.Y. 10001.

A Night with the A's

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will host its first Annual "Night With the A's," Thursday, July 16. This action-packed evening will include reserved seats for the game against the New York Yankees, and dinner preceeding the 7:30 game in the Hospitality Room of the Oakland Coliseum.

Your ticket orders must be placed no later than July 3. Tickets are \$10.00 each for a good reserved seat in the Sha'ar Zahav section, and a delightful dinner in the Coliseum's Hospitality Room.

The Oakland Coliseum is a short walk from the BART station.

Please clip out the order form below and mail it with your check before July 3.

Plan now for what promises to be a very enjoyable evening of "Billyball."

Ron Lezell
for the
Program Committee

Please clip and mail with your check payable to:
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San
Francisco, CA 94101, Attention: Tickets

Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ tickets.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

*****MAIL BY JULY 3*****



**DON'T
DELAY!
MAIL
TODAY**

Bits & Pieces

YOUR HEALTH!!

Quite a few members of our congregation have recently expressed an interest in beginning an exercise class. If you are interested in forming this class please see Sandy Pomerantz at Shabbat services. Sandy is also investigating the possibility of using available gym facilities.

MAZEL TOV!!

We wish to extend our warmest wishes to Havurah Or B'Emek, a new Jewish gay group in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. We have also heard that a new synagogue for Gay and Lesbian Jews is now being formed in Houston, Texas. It is always a delight to know that our network is growing.

You can contact Havurah Or B'Emek by calling (219) 744-0484, or writing to P.O. Box 11041, Ft. Wayne, IN 46855.

ELECTION RESULTS!

The results of the congregational elections held on May 31, as well as the outcome of the resolutions presented for a vote that day, will be published in the July issue of the Forward.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES!

The synagogue will be continuing its new practice of holding a Shabbat morning service on the second Saturday morning of the month. In June the Shabbat morning service will be held at the home of Steven Fritsch Rudser, 4355 18th Street at Eureka, San Francisco, beginning at 10:00 A.M. All are welcome.

LIVING SOBER

The Gay Groups of Alcoholics Anonymous will host the Sixth Annual Living Sober Conference, July 3, 4 & 5, at San Francisco's Civic Center Auditorium. Eighty workshops are scheduled covering a wide range of topics.

Sha'ar Zahav Blood Drive

Giving blood is a mitzvah! Sha'ar Zahav will again hold a blood drive on Thursday, June 25, at the Phelan Building, 760 Market Street, 11th Floor, and Friday, June 26, at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, 270 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco.

Please request that your donations be credited to the account of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Let's make this blood drive our most successful ever!

Garage Sale a Hit!

Over \$200 was raised in the Sha'ar Zahav Mother's Day Garage Sale.

We wish to thank everyone who donated items for the sale, helped in delivering items to the sale, sold items at the sale, and purchased items during the sale. In addition to the garage sale being a fund raising event, everyone who attended had a wonderful time.

The sale was true sharing and participating in the life of our synagogue. Let's plan another such event real soon!

Congregational Seder

The Sha'ar Zahav Congregational Seder which was held on the second night of Passover was a very inspiring event.

Nearly 150 members and friends of the synagogue attended the seder, which was held at the Holiday Inn-Golden Gateway, San Francisco.

A highlight of the evening was the new Haggadah prepared by our Ritual Committee.

A very special thank you to everyone who attended the seder, assisted during the evening, worked for its preparation, and painstakingly devoted themselves to producing our new Haggadah.

Campaign to Free Wallenberg

During the past several months, major stories concerning Raoul Wallenberg have appeared in such publications as the Chronicle, Examiner, Washington Post and New York Times. In March, 60 Minutes devoted a major portion of a broadcast to this amazing man, and ABC, CBS and NBC network news programs featured an interview with a San Francisco resident who spent 15 years in Soviet prisons and met Wallenberg there long after the Soviet government claimed he had died of a heart attack.

Wallenberg, a member of an aristocratic Swedish family who went to Hungary as a diplomat in 1944, saved the lives of 100,000 Jews in the final days World War II by issuing Swedish passports and establishing safe houses, providing protection for Jews. Funding for his activities came from the U. S. War Refugee Board and from organizations such as the World Jewish Congress. He was arrested as a suspected American spy by the Soviet army which occupied Budapest, and in 1957 the Soviet government finally claimed, after years of refusing to say anything about him, that he had died in 1947. More recently, though, emigres from the Soviet Union have reported to have met him in prison as recently as last year. An international campaign, involving his family, the Swedish government and many individuals and organizations throughout the world, has begun to free him.

Rep. Tom Lantos of San Mateo, who with his wife Annette Lantos was saved by Wallenberg, has introduced a bill in Congress to declare Wallenberg an honorary U. S. citizen. In addition, Wallenberg has been nominated for the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize and, locally, the American Jewish Congress is coordinating a number of projects, including an effort to name a new public high school in Raoul Wallenberg's honor. These and other efforts are aimed at informing the general public as well as the Jewish community about this man's heroism and continued imprisonment, and to put public pressure

on the Soviets to free him.

Your support is needed to accomplish this. If you would like to become involved in the Campaign to Free Raoul Wallenberg, please call the American Jewish Congress at 391-6590. We also encourage you to write to Board of Education President Bill Maher in support of the naming of the new school in Wallenberg's honor (the question will be discussed at the Board's June 9 meeting) and to your Representatives and both California Senators in support of the honoray citizenship bill.



MOROCCO

Golden Age of Jewry

Almost 3,000 years ago, Jews first came to Morocco to purchase gold for the beautification of the Temple in Jerusalem. Over the centuries, Moroccan Jews developed a rich culture which produced poets, writers, rabbis and biblical scholars. Maimonides wrote many of his works in Morocco, having fled there from persecutions in Spain.

Recently, Joel Brooks, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, Northern California Division, was invited, together with other American Jewish journalists and community leaders, to tour the country and meet with Moroccan government officials and leaders of the Jewish community.

Brooks will share his adventures and experiences with us during his sermon on Frisday, June 5.

MAY ONEGIM

- May 1 By David Gass and David Ben-Jacob
for all those persons running for
synagogue office and the Va'ad.
- May 8 By Irene Ogus for her auto pink slip
day.
- May 15 By Jerry Rosenstein for the enjoy-
ment of the Congregation.
- May 22 By Jerry Rosenstein for his birthday.
- May 29 By the women of the Congregation.

ONEG, LTD.

I wish to express my gratitude and thanks to everyone who helped in making our Congregational Seder a very successful one. It was a very rewarding experience for all of us.

A special thank you to the entire Oneg Committee for their tireless efforts in the preparation of the Sha'ar Zahav Seder.

Please remember two important dates on your calendar. They are the two days of the Sha'ar Zahav Blood Drive, Thursday, June 25, at the Phelan Building, 760 Market Street, 11th Floor, and Friday, June 26, at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, 270 Masonic Ave., San Francisco.

Kindly request that your donation be credited to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's account.

We thank you in advance for your donation.

Shalom,
David
David Ben-Jacob,
Oneg Committee Chair



Yahrzeits

David Radovsky, grandfather of Laurie Radovsky
Sivan 10 (June 12)

Hannah Lieber Norwick, grandmother of Mark Resnick
Iyar 28 (June 1)

Birthdays

Adam Frey	June 1
Ernie Weinstein	June 6
Daniel Chesir	June 10
Michael Freedland	June 16
Steven Klein	June 23
Scott Chase	June 24
Carol Segal	June 24
Marc Lipschutz	June 26
Cynthia Schorr	June 28

ANNIVERSARIES

Joel Roman & Sam Ceccarelli 17 years June 11

Robert Eiseg Bienstock & Jack Trujillo
2 years June 17

Bryan Taylor & Don Hamilton Hautala
1 year June 17



CHANGE OF ADDRESS	
<p>If you're moving, please allow six weeks for processing time.</p>	<p>Attach current address label here.</p>
<p>NEW ADDRESS:</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p>	<p>Mail to:</p> <p>Sha'ar Zahav P.O.Box 5640 S.F. CA 94101</p>